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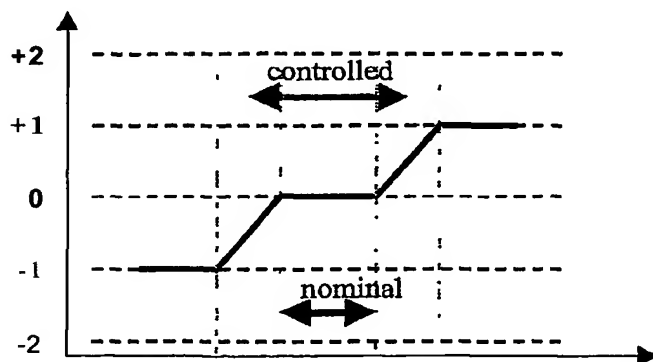
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functional relationship with said determined relative occurrence. The at least one readout parameter is controlled on the basis of generated error signal. This makes the error signal dependent on the relative occurrence of detected runlength violations, such that a smooth transition from the non controlled state to the controlled state can be achieved so as to increase the robustness of the control loop.

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for controlling at least one readout parameter during a reading operation from a magneto optical recording medium comprising a storage layer and a readout layer, wherein an expanded domain leading to a pulse in a reading signal is generated in said readout layer by copying of a mark region from said storage layer to said readout layer upon heating by the radiation power and with the help of the external magnetic field. A pulse pattern in the reading signal is analyzed, and the analysis result is compared with a runlength characteristic of the data stored in said storage layer. A relative occurrence of runlength violations is obtained from this comparison, and an error signal is generated having a predetermined continuous

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